

56-0947


MEMORANDUM FOR: Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT: S. 3015, A Bill to Confirm and Protect the Right of Individuals to Communicate with Members of Congress.

1. Subject bill has been reviewed by this Office to determine whether or not further action by your office is necessary or desired.

2. The right of an individual to petition or communicate directly or indirectly with Congress or a member of Congress is an unquestioned principle of democratic government and to this end the measure has a meritorious objective in protecting that right. However, in the case of this Agency, it is believed that such a right should not extend to the provision of information pertaining to intelligence sources or the administration of this Agency. We note that S. 3015 circumscribes the right of communication to Congress by prohibiting the furnishing of information in violation of laws and regulations protective of the security of the United States. We assume that this constitutes an adequate safeguard for this Agency, inclusive of communications concerning personnel problems and grievances. If this section is not an adequate coverage, consideration should be given to the obtainment of an Agency exemption if and when favorable action on the bill warrants such a request.

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Harrison G. Reynolds
Director of Personnel